

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph bridging pages 15 and 16 with the following amended paragraph:

(REFERENCE EXAMPLE 2) Process for producing racemic N-carbamyl-S-tert-butyl- α -methylcysteine

Racemic 5-methyl-5-tert-butylthiomethylhydantoin (4.77 g)Racemic 5-methyl-5-thiomethylhydantoin (4.77 g) was dissolved in a 10 wt% aqueous solution of sodium hydroxide (75 g) and the mixture was refluxed for 72 hours. The reaction mixture was left to cool to room temperature and a part of the reaction mixture was then sampled. The formation of racemic S-tert-butyl- α -methylcysteine was confirmed by an analysis using high performance liquid chromatography (HPLC). The pH was adjusted to 8 with concentrated hydrochloric acid and the mixture was then heated to 70°C. A solution dissolved potassium cyanate (2.07 g) in distilled water (10 mL) was added dropwise over a period of 20 minutes. After the dropwise addition, the reaction mixture was stirred for 5 hours. Subsequently, a part of the reaction mixture was sampled and analyzed by HPLC. Since an unreacted amino acid was detected, a solution dissolved potassium cyanate (4.14 g) in distilled water (20 mL) was further added dropwise over a period of 20 minutes. After the dropwise addition, the reaction mixture was further stirred for 1 hour. The reaction mixture was left to cool to room temperature, and the pH was adjusted to 2 with concentrated hydrochloric acid. The precipitated solid was recovered by filtering. The resultant solid was washed with water and dried. Subsequently, the solid was confirmed to be the target compound by ¹H-NMR analysis (3.38 g, yield 66%).

Analytical conditions for HPLC;

Column: COSMOSIL 5C18-ARII (4.6 mm in diameter \times 250 mm, from Nacalai Tesque, Inc.),

Mobile phase: 10 mM phosphoric acid-potassium dihydrogenphosphate buffer (pH

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2.0)/acetonitrile = 97/3, Column temperature: 40°C, Measurement wavelength: 210 nm, Flow rate: 1.0 mL/min.